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Appl'n No. 09/996,160
Amendment dated January 5, 2007
Reply to Office Action mailed July 6, 2006

PATENT

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 6, 2006 has been reviewed and the comments therein were carefully considered. Claims 1-9, 11-15, 17-21, 24-27 and 29-34 are currently pending. Claims 1-9, 11-15, 17-21, 24-27 and 29-34 were rejected in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §112

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action stated that it is unclear what is meant by "handle an indication of an expiry of the further timer as it would be an indication from the timer function". Claim 32 has been clarified to now claim "A station as claimed in claim 30, wherein the station is adapted to handle an indication of an expiry of the further timer." In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-14, 16-21, 26 and 28 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon, U.S. Patent No. 6,859,445 ("Moon") in view of Fong, U.S. Patent No. 6,931,569 ("Fong").

Claims 15 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon in view of Fong and further in view of the admitted prior art.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon in view of Fong and further in view of Labonte, U.S. Patent No. 5,991,286 ("Labonte").

Independent claim 1 has been amended to now claim, among other things, "starting a ready timer function in layer 3 of a connection function model," and "initiating transmission of data on the data channel by a Subnetwork Dependent Convergence Protocol (SNDCP) entity of the first station," and changing the state of the data channel to the other state based on an indication by a further timer in a logical link control (LLC) layer of the connection function model that is lower than a layer on which said timer function is implemented."

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Independent claim 29 has been amended to claim, among other things, "a ready timer function in layer 3 of a connection function model for provision of an indication based on which a state of a data channel established between the two stations is changed from a ready state to another state."

Independent claim 30 has been amended to claim, among other things, "a ready timer function in layer 3 of a connection function model for provision of an indication based on which a state of a data channel established between the station and said other station is to be changed from a ready state to another state, arranged such that the data channel is prevented to change from the ready state to said other state based on the ready timer function, until occurrence of a predefined event."

The cited prior art does not teach or suggest the above claimed subject matter. In addition, these amendments are as discussed with the examiner by applicant's undersigned counsel in the June 2006 timeframe. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 29 and 30 are in condition for allowance. The dependent claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons as the allowable independent claims from which they depend.

CONCLUSION

Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims and a finding of their allowability. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Please feel free to contact the undersigned should any questions arise with respect to this case that may be addressed by telephone.

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